



April 6, 2018, 9:30 am
Downtown Library, Conference Room 1A
615 Church Street

Roll Call:

Present: Liz Allen Fey, chair; Renee Pratt, Mina Johnson, Wendell Segroves, Charlie Strobel, Bob Freeman, Tim Leeth, Marvin Cox, Freddie O'Connell, Glenn Cranfield, Angie Thompson, John Krenson, Paula Foster, Theresa Skiles, Angie Hubbard, Quan Poole (Metro Legal), and Mayor David Briley

Staff: Judy Tackett, Abigail Dowell, Sally Besuden, Nicole Williams, Jessica Ivey, Troy Jenkins, Joseph Parker, Deon Trotter

Liz Allen Fey welcomed Mayor Briley, thanked him for attending today's meeting and invited him to address the Commission.

Mayor's remarks:

Mayor David Briley thanked everyone who serves on the Commission. Mayor Briley said progress would not be made without volunteers working to make a difference on important issues. Everyone will be measured by the mark they make on peoples' lives, not the buildings that are built. Mayor Briley reported he will continue to be committed on focusing on providing more housing and support to help raise people up. Liz Allen Fey and Judith Tackett met with then Vice Mayor Briley last fall regarding steps needed to get more funds and an update on the governance discussion the Commission was in.

Mayor Briley reported that there will be an announcement soon in regard to get permanent housing built and additional support for those who are experiencing homelessness. Councilmember O'Connell has been in the loop and it is the goal to work towards solutions. The public needs to be fully engaged. Everyone can count on continued effort to make sure everyone is heard and participate in decision making. Mayor Briley reported he is happy to engage and answer questions regarding any of these issues.

Freddie O'Connell asked if Mayor Briley is optimistic regarding fulfilling goals around data that this Commission has, alluding to the Commission's budget request.

Mayor Briley answered he was neither optimistic nor pessimistic. Mayor Briley reported there is a very tight budget across the board and there are still unanswered questions regarding revenue levels. This

issue is a high priority. Many departments are not likely to get resources to expand their departments, but community commitments will be prioritized.

MHC/CoC Governance update:

Liz Allen Fey reported the workgroup has been meeting every two weeks and invited those who have been serving to add any comments. The hope is that an ordinance will be voted on if there are no substantial changes to the charter. The charter committee is reviewing that charter so documents match up. The charter review will take place on 4/19/18. The vote on the ordinance will take place on 5/4/18, contingent upon charter being reviewed. MSS board will meet to accept ordinance in May. 5/17/18 will be the final reading and vote on COC charter, contingent on passing ordinance. 5/21/18 will be the vote to file ordinance and it will need a Metro Council member to sponsor. 6/5/18 will be first Metro Council reading, 6/19/18 the second Metro Council reading, 7/3/18 will be the third and final Metro Council reading. If all of previously stated goes to plan, 7/18/18 will be first meeting of new Nashville-Davidson County Continuum of Care Homelessness Planning Council Planning Council.

Liz Allen Fey went over the Metro ordinance draft that was before the Commissioners. Liz Allen Fey reported the first part is about background and how we got here that can be read independently. The second part is a description of the homelessness planning council. There will be 25 voting members. Liz Allen Fey reminded people to pay attention regarding distinctions between Planning Council and Homelessness Commission. With the Planning Council department reps are anticipated to be participating throughout the COC, working on the various committees. Liz Allen Fey that those serving now will continue to serve and be the inaugural board to allow the Planning Council to start on solid footing. Staggered terms would be created by the inaugural Planning Council. There will be attendance requirements that members must attend 75 percent of regular meetings. The COC shall serve as independent body as governance board for COC. It will sit organizationally within MSS, but does not have to report to the MSS Board. MHC staff will be known as Metro Homeless Impact Division and as part of their work will assist the Planning Council.

Freddie O'Connell remarked that this is a remarkable moment. The streamlining this plan forecasts will create a moment where Nashville can start doing its best work. Cloudburst helped engage stakeholders. A lot of collaboration and trust building happened within the COC. Freddie O'Connell asked if it can be added that this proposal crossed a lot of moving parts and involved different people? Liz Allen Fey answered that yes, that should be added. Freddie O'Connell added that the input and blessing of those that do this work every day is needed. Freddie O'Connell asked Judith Tackett if this a welcome re-imagining? Judy Tackett answered yes. Judy Tackett reported that the feedback gathered regarding building a system has been eye-opening. More people in the community want to look at a system's approach.

Tim Leeth disagreed and said this plan is not community-based. The board should not be decided by the governance of the COC, but by the full membership. Angie Hubbard reported MDHA has asked HUD for feedback regarding any conflict between ordinance and charter. Liz Allen Fey said we will have legal look at these issues. Mayor Briley said he hopes everyone will be primarily driven by the underlying

principles of looking at the necessity of everyone being unified and being directed in the same way. Everyone needs to get on the same page regarding ending homelessness and let the lawyers work out the details. Figuring out a way to better align is a high priority. Mayor Briley said he encourages everyone to have an open mind and work together.

Howard Allen said that there is a problem and that people who are homeless have to sit here and be stifled. The winter season is over, but Nashville is supposed to have sleet and snow tomorrow. What safety net is there for tonight and tomorrow night? If homeless community is not included in this process, this plan will be a complete failure. Howard Allen requested for the Mayor to come and talk to the homeless and that the homeless need to talk to Council. Mayor reported he wants everyone to stay focused. Steve Reiter said general membership of COC is not mentioned in the new charter and people need to be held accountable. Mayor Briley said he would communicate both with Steve Reiter and Howard Allen. Theresa Skiles reported she appreciate peoples coming together and trying to address things. She spoke to the importance to hold people accountable including people experiencing homelessness.

Quan Poole said it has been stated for record that nothing in ordinance at all prohibits the COC making their annual certifications or overall 5 year plan and to refer to subsection D. Liz Allen Fey said that the Planning Council is in place to support the COC, which is the intent. It is not about power and control, it is about leveraging resources. Freddie O'Connell said just because there are disagreements doesn't mean the process hasn't been community based.

Freddie O'Connell pointed out that the Homelessness Commission had created a governance task force in 2016 that has not been meeting in a few months due to all the work that has been going on. He made a motion that the work of that taskforce that predated this work be concluded. Paula Foster seconded the motion. All approved the motion.

Liz Allen Fey reported developments regarding the governance progress will be brought back in May.

Approval of minutes:

Paula Foster made a motion to approve the minutes from Feb. 2, 2018. Mina Johnson seconded the motion. Tim Leeth discussed that the minutes from February were approved under the condition to make changes. He did not see the changes. He also said the minutes from the Commission meetings were not posted properly with the last being posted in November. Judith Tackett said the changes were made, the Commission at the March meeting wanted to see the minutes presented again, and minutes could only be posted once approved. There were no meetings in December and January.

A vote was taken. All approved with exception of Tim Leeth who opposed.

Wendell Segroves made a motion to approve the minutes of March 2, 2018. Freddie O'Connell seconded. All approved.

Financial Report:

Lisa Rickett gave financial report.

Budget Update/Directors Report:

Judy Tackett reported that MHC presented the budget with MSS because MHC is part of their budget. She said in her budget presentation to the Mayor she recognized that Metro had ask was for status quo budget, and yet the Commission still had an opportunity to provide the full request, which is based on a vision to bring our community's data system (HMIS) to the standards of other communities within the next couple of years. The importance of creating a system was talked about in the budget presentation. The requests were tied to building better system and to building out HMIS. Comparable cities were used to show how the city needs to improve and invest. There will be an HMIS lead vote at the CoC. A proposal will be submitted to the CoC that MHC take on the HMIS lead. It is up to the CoC membership to decide the HMIS lead. MSS board will also have to approve HMIS lead conditional on CoC approval. Liz Allen Frey said that Renee Pratt brings issues that require MSS board approval to the board. Judy Tackett reported the budget hearing is on YouTube for those who are interested.

Judy Tackett said the annual bus pass program was brought up during the budget hearing and reported 253 individuals have received annual bus passes since October and 77 have accessed permanent housing. The annual bus pass program demonstrated what we can do when we have data. Judy Tackett referred to a handout regarding housing placement rates compiled by Nicole Williams. Judy Tackett reported data collection methodology is changing from previous years. Hiring a data specialist has helped to report an unduplicated number for this report that is most likely a minimum number. John Krenson asked what other cities you are being looked at regarding HMIS and are all community partners participating? Judy Tackett answered that community partners in other cities aren't always all participating and that she will look into question further. Judy Tackett report Memphis and Louisville get double and triple funding through the CoC funds in comparison to Nashville, which is influenced by being able to show their work through data. For Nashville to be competitive, an investment needs to be made. Liz Allen Fey asked if housing placement data shows where people are going into housing? Glenn Cranfield asked about potential duplication? Nicole Williams reported regarding duplication that potential duplication can happen for various reasons. An example would be if someone is housed one month and housed another month, they are counted in both months. She said that was a small percentage. Judy Tackett mentioned that Abigail Dowell is working very closely with youth providers. There is a 43 million dollar grant available for 11 communities that is very competitive. Judy Tackett mentioned a consumer advisory planning committee is being formed to get more input and be another opportunity for people with lived experiences to have their voices heard. Judy Tackett reported an observation from the consolidated input planning session regarding the group's responses. Together, commissioners as a group weren't ready to prioritize, but as individuals, commissioners were willing to prioritize. It is important to bring this issue up now for future conversations on how to be the oversight body (even as part of the Planning Council) that looks at prioritization questions.

Extreme Weather Ad Hoc Committee Report:

Bob Freeman reported the committee met two weeks ago. The night before the meeting there were severe storms and tornado warnings. The question was asked, what is the plan for those type of situations? In the emergency plan in place that would address fire, flooding, disasters, etc., there was no mention of homelessness or cold weather plan. More people need to get to the table regarding why homelessness isn't included and what can be done to fill that gap. The committee is still gathering information and making sure the right people are at table. The committee feels confident that there will be a recommendation by June.

Public Input Session:

Liz Allen Fey reported the decision of the 3-minute time limit was agreed upon by the public so everyone can speak. She reminded everyone that when we lifted that time limit, we were asked to put it back in place by people who felt they were not given the same opportunity to speak as others.

Howard Allen asked what if something happens tonight in regard to the weather. The RITI season is over and he doesn't want anyone to die. Howard Allen directed comment to Theresa Skiles saying that everyone who stays outside is not mentally challenged and that he is one of those people. Howard Allen thanked Commissioner Cox saying that the word chronic needs to be scratched. Housing is needed for homelessness in general. Howard Allen reported he comes to meetings because of his belief in keeping enemies closer and to listen.

Steve Reiter asked why there wasn't mention of how many people were in housing because homeless people don't matter. Why is there no mention of the general membership? Steve Reiter reported he talked with Quan Poole and in order to change charter, the ordinance must be revised. The way a community should be built is from the general public up. 25 people on the Planning Council is too big, it needs to be 15. This plan makes general membership irrelevant. No housing number was given and everyone is playing musical chairs and that is unacceptable. Steve Reiter reported that he drafted his own charter because the one drafted is the worst one ever. No one needs to get paid if they're a board member.

Liz Allen Fey reiterated that the goal and intent is to bring people together and that is what it has always been and she hopes movement will be made so everyone can see that as the vision.

Charles McQuire reported there is no question about waving the 44 dollar a day jail fee. If the public wants people to be in the Mission and jail, he challenges the public to spend the night in both. If anyone spends a night in either they will see. The air-conditioning in the Mission is too high and affects quality of life. The plan for a mental health jail is a step in right direction.

Barry K. Hobbs reported there should be 10 new members of the board instead of 25. If it is kept at 25, the number of homeless people should be bigger.

Liz Allen Fey reported that input will be brought back and reminded that 5 people with lived experience is the minimum number. The 5 spots are not a limit, but set a minimum.

Charlie Strobel asked regarding the concerns Steve Reiter has raised, if the meeting on May 4 was the place to bring these concerns?

Liz Allen Fey reported yes.

Steve Reiter reported that Sean Muldoon is not letting people speak at charter meetings and that is why he needed to draft his own charter. There has not been anything done regarding the charter. There should have been joint group between charter committee and governance committee.

Mina Johnson reported she would like to counter. She is a part of the workgroup and whoever is in the charter division will bring up from the voice of the community. The workgroup wants to use and adapt was in brought up by the community.

Theresa Skiles reported just because she thinks children are a priority, that doesn't mean she doesn't care about mentally ill adults. She believes adults have accountability. If a person knows it's 30 degrees, they can plan their life accordingly. If a person is mentally ill they don't have that awareness all the time. Adults have life skills and need to be forced to use them.

Moment of Silence: Greg Dickey, Frank McCoy, Jennifer

Adjournment:

Liz Allen Fey reported meeting was adjourned.